

Message Text

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SUBJECT: GOVERNOR'S SPEECH TO LEGCO

SUMMARY: MAJOR POINT OF LOCAL INTEREST IN GOVERNOR'S "STATE OF HONG KONG" MESSAGE OCTOBER 17 WAS ESTABLISHMENT OF SEPARATE ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION HEADED BY HOME AFFAIRS SECRETARY JACK CATER. GOVERNOR MENTIONED DIFFICULTIES FACED BY HKG DURING PAST YEAR BUT EMPHASIZED NEED TO CONTINUE WITH LONG RANGE GOAL OF PROSPERITY WITH SOCIAL PROGRESS AND PROVIDED STATUS REPORT ON EDUCATION, HOUSING, HEALTH AND WELFARE PROGRAMS ANNOUNCED IN LAST YEAR'S ADDRESS. MAJOR NEW INITIATIVES ANNOUNCED IN RECREATION AND SPORT AND IN SOLUTION OF TRAFFIC, TRANSPORT, LAND POLICY AND POLLUTION

PROBLEMS. GOVERNOR ALSO ANNOUNCED OFF-COURSE BETTING AND INDICATED ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS (ACAN) TO SERVE AS HKG'S COORDINATOR AND CONTROL POINT IN FIGHT AGAINST NARCOTICS. INITIAL REACTIONS APPEAR FAVORABLE AND HEAVILY CONCENTRATED ON NEW ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION. END SUMMARY

1. IN RECOGNIZING VARIOUS PROBLEMS FACING HKG DURING PAST YEAR, GOVERNOR EMPHASIZED CORRUPTION ISSUE WHICH HAS DOMINATED HEADLINES WITH FLIGHT OF POLICE SUPERINTENDENT GODBER TO UK AND PROSECUTION UNCLASSIFIED

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TION OF ANOTHER POLICE SUPERINTENDENT, GOVERNOR APPOINTED JACK CATER, WHO HAD ALREADY ANNOUNCED HIS RETIREMENT AS HOME AFFAIRS SECRETARY, AS NEW COMMISSIONER WITH "INDEPENDENCE SIMILAR TO THAT OF JUDGES" AND ANNOUNCED RETURN TO HONG KONG OF 1960-66 DIRECTOR OF POLICE

SPECIAL BRANCH, JOHN PRENDERGAST, AS CHIEF OF OPERATIONS. A SEPARATE SECTION OF NEW COMMISSION WILL PLAY ROLE OF EDUCATING PUBLIC ON EVILS OF CORRUPTION FOR BOTH RECEIVERS AND GIVERS OF BRIBES.

2. GOVERNOR MACLEHOSE OPENED SPEECH TO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WITH LONG RECITAL OF STATUS OF FOUR MAJOR CONCERNS OF HIS 1972 ADDRESS: HOUSING, SOCIAL WELFARE, EDUCATION AND HEALTH. GOVERNOR APPEARED PLEASED WITH START MADE ON GOAL OF PROVIDING SELF-CONTAINED HOUSING IN REASONABLE SURROUNDINGS FOR ALL HONG KONG CITIZENS OF FY82-3 BUT INDICATED TASK IS TO "BUILD FAST, BUILD WELL, BUT ABOVE ALL, KEEP ON BUILDING". HE ALSO APPEARED SATISFIED WITH INAUGURATION OF SOCIAL WELFARE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SCHEMES AND PROMISED ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY AND YOUTH FACILITIES.

3. ON EDUCATION, GOVERNOR TABLED EDUCATION BOARD'S PLAN WHICH PROMISES THREE YEAR SECONDARY EDUCATION WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ALL 12-14 YEAR OLDS AND SENIOR SECONDARY EDUCATION SPACES WILL BE DOUBLED BY 1984. HEAVY EMPHASIS WILL BE MADE IN PRE-VOCATIONAL AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING, FOURTH COLLEGE OF EDUCATION WILL BE ESTABLISHED, AND RECOGNITION IS MADE OF CHINESE AS USUAL MEDIUM OF EDUCATION FOR LOWER FORMS (JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL) OF SECONDARY TRAINING. GOVERNOR INDICATED THAT HE HOPED CONSULTATIONS WITH COUNCIL, INTERESTED PARTIES, AND GENERAL PUBLIC WILL PROVIDE WAYS OF SHORTENING LENGTH OF TIME REQUIRED TO ACHIEVE THESE GOALS AND INDICATED BOARD WILL NOW TURN TO THOROUGH REVIEW OF EXAMINATION SYSTEM, WHICH HAS BEEN UNDER INCREASING ATTACK BY BOTH PARENTS AND TEACHERS.

4. GOVERNOR CONSIDERED HEALTH PROGRAMS GOOD BUT POINTED OUT TEN-YEAR PLAN INITIATED IN 1964 NOW RUNNING OUT AND APPOINTED MEDICAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER NEW 10-YEAR PLAN. GOVERNOR SET AS MAJOR GOALS, INCREASING BEDS PER 1,000 POPULATION FROM 4.25 TO 5.5, AN ADDITIONAL 100 DOCTORS PER YEAR, DENTAL SCHOOL PROVIDING 60 DENTISTS PER YEAR, NURSING FACILITIES FOR 150-200 NEW NURSES PER YEAR, AND DIRECT GOVERNMENT HANDLING OF FAMILY PLANNING IN GOVERNMENTAL CLINICS.

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5. AMONG MAJOR NEW PROGRAMS SUGGESTED BY GOVERNOR (ALTHOUGH MENTIONED ALSO IN 1972 SPEECH) WAS APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL FOR RECREATION AND SPORT TO STUDY AND DEVELOP NEW RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND ENSURE MAXIMUM UTILIZATION OF PRESENT FACILITIES. CLAIMING THAT POPULATION HAS INCREASING TIME AND FUNDS FOR LEISURE, THE GOVERNOR INDICATED THIS IS NOT A LUXURY BUT A NECESSITY FOR BETTER LIVING. GOVERNOR INDICATED SECRETARY OF ENVIRONMENT ALREADY WORKING ON GREEN PAPER ON TRAFFIC, TRANSPORT, LAND POLICY, AND POLLUTION WHICH EXPECTED SHORTLY. HIS MAJOR CONCERN APPEARED TO BE TO UPDATE BUS TRANSPORT WHICH, EVEN AFTER SUBWAY COMPLETED, WILL REMAIN MAJOR TRANSPORTATION FOR MOST. UNDER LAND POLICY, GOVERNOR PROMISED NEW SITES TO BE AUCTIONED OFF FOR DEVELOPMENT FOR SPECIAL INDUSTRIES

AND MENTIONED LANTAU ISLAND AS HAVING ROOM BOTH FOR RECREATIONAL PURPOSES AS WELL AS RESIDENTIAL AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT. HE CONFIRMED HKG IS AGAIN CONSIDERING POSSIBILITY OF BRIDGE TO LANTAU TO AID SUCH DEVELOPMENT.

6. HONG KONG'S NARCOTICS PROBLEM WILL BE TREATED LATER THIS YEAR IN WHITE PAPER PREPARED BY NARCOTICS COMMISSIONER ROLPH BUT GOVERNOR ANNOUNCED THAT ACAN WILL BE "SOLE CHANNEL OF ADVICE" TO HKG ON ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES AND POLICY. TREATMENT AND RESEARCH, HOWEVER, ARE BEING GIVEN TO MEDICAL DEPARTMENT WHICH WILL SET UP NEW DIVISION TO HANDLE THIS RESPONSIBILITY.

7. TURNING TO THE ECONOMY, THE GOVERNOR SAID THE RAPID RISE AND FALL OF THE STOCK MARKET SHOWED AN INSTANCE WHERE THE LAISSEZ-FAIRE APPROACH SHOULD BE ABANDONED. HE NOTED PROBLEMS CREATED BY RAW MATERIAL SHORTAGES AND INFLATION, ALTHOUGH HE MAINTAINED THAT HONG KONG'S INFLATION WAS NO WORSE THAN ELSEWHERE (SIC.). IN REVIEWING HIS CONCERNS OVER THE PAST YEAR, HE MENTIONED ACTUAL AND THREATENED DISCRIMINATION AGAINST HONG KONG BY COUNTRIES ACCORDING GENERALIZED PREFERENCES; HE ADDED THAT UK ACCESSION TO THE EEC IN JANUARY WILL BRING ADDED DISCRIMINATION AS EEC PREFERENCES WILL NOT EXTEND TO HONG KONG'S TEXTILES AND FOOTWEAR.

8. ON ANOTHER ISSUE UNDER LOCAL DEBATE, GOVERNOR STATED THAT OFF-COURSE BETTING WILL BE ALLOWED BUT THAT "WE PROPOSE TO DO NO MORE THAN THIS AT THE MOMENT".

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9. INITIAL PRESS REACTION CONCENTRATED HEAVILY ON NEW ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION AND APPOINTMENT OF CATER AS COMMISSIONER. BOTH DECISIONS APPEAR TO BE WELL RECEIVED ALTHOUGH MANY ARE WITHHOLDING JUDGMENT UNTIL COMMISSION BECOMES OPERATIONAL AND RESULTS ARE ACHIEVED.

10. IN ALMOST ALL PHASES OF HIS PROGRAMS, GOVERNOR INDICATED HKG WOULD FOLLOW PROCEDURE INITIATED IN THIS YEAR'S SOCIAL WELFARE FIVE-YEAR PLAN. CONCERNED DEPARTMENT WILL DEVELOP GREEN PAPER WHICH WILL BE PRESENTED TO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL FOR DISCUSSION AND REVIEW, THEN PUBLICIZED WITH INTERESTED PARTIES AND GENERAL PUBLIC ENCOURAGED TO PROVIDE COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS. RESULTS WILL THEN BE PREPARED AS WHITE PAPER FOR NECESSARY LEGISLATIVE AND BUDGETARY APPROVAL. MOST PLANS WILL BE FOR FIVE YEAR PERIODS (MAJOR EXCEPTION IS 10-YEAR PLANNING FOR MEDICAL AND HEALTH PROGRAM) AND WILL BE REVIEWED AND UPDATED ANNUALLY. PROCESS WILL PERMIT HKG TO OBTAIN SOME DEGREE OF POPULAR OPINION ON NEW SCHEMES AND PROVIDE POSSIBLE BASIS FOR GREATER PUBLIC SUPPORT OF GOVERNMENTAL PROGRAMS.

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